

REMARKS

Applicants have studied the Office Action dated April 22, 2004. Claims 1-6, 7-10 and 14-16 have been cancelled without prejudice. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In response to the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121, Applicants provisionally elect for continued prosecution of Species III (i.e., claims 11-13 and 17-19) which comprises comparing tag values and querying the database for a predetermined hierarchical contractual relationship. Thus, Applicants request examination of claims 11-13 and 17-19.

To advance the prosecution of the application, claims 1-6, 7-10 and 14-16 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants expressly reserve the right to file a divisional application with respect to these claims at a later date.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application and the claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

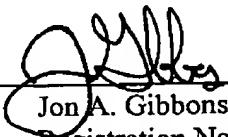
The Examiner is respectfully requested to direct future correspondence regarding this application to the undersigned attorney at the address below.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 24, 2004

By:


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